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Report Says U.S. Asked Wennerstrom to Spy

By Wilfred Fleisher

Special to The Washington Post

STOCKHOLM, April 23 report, and learned in this

Col. Stig Wennerstrom's "first involvement in disloyal intelligence work" was undertaken on behalf of the United States, according to the report of an official Inquiry Commission released by Sweden's Department of Justice today.

According to the report the incident occurred in 1946 when Wennerstrom was named to represent Sweden at an air show in Moscow. The report states that he was contacted by the American Air Attache in Stockholm and "another person connected with the American intelligence service," who proposed that the Swedish officer should "co-operate in intelligence work directed against the Soviet Union."

Asked to Mail Package

Wennerstrom was asked to mail a package from Moscow which he believes contained radio tubes or something similar and undertook to do so, the report said.

The American Embassy issued a statement here tonight denying that "any attempt was made by any American authority" to enlist Wennerstrom for espionage against the Soviet Union.

The report says Wennerstrom also supplied information to Nazi Germany about Russia during World War II but remarks that the demarcation between legal and illegal intelligence during the war was "somewhat vague."

Sweden's secret service succeeded in breaking the German code in 1943 according to the

way that Wennerstrom was providing the German Military Attache in Stockholm with information. The Commission's report, released while the trial of the Swedish officer is continuing in secret here, evidently is intended to allay insistent protests in the Swedish press against the "blackout" of the trial.

Report Censored

The 212-page report was censored before its release and 18 pages removed. They dealt principally with Wennerstrom's activities as Air Attache in Washington.

There are few revelations regarding Wennerstrom's actual espionage but it is reported that in 1958 he obtained secret information from the Swedish defense staff regarding American Air Force bases which he subsequently passed on to the Russians and that he succeeded in gaining admission to an American strategic bomber base.

Wennerstrom is described in the report as "a lone wolf" with no accomplices. The report confirms he had contacts with stateless Dr. Gustaf Prey which "could have been espionage," but that Wennerstrom maintains that it was not.

There's a strong implication in the report that Mrs. Wennerstrom may have had knowledge of her husband's spying since a maid testified before the Commission that she overheard the couple discussing plans to flee to Switzerland and change their name.

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